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PATENT APPLICATION
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In The United States Patent and Trademark Office
On Appeal From The Examiner To The Board
of Patent Appeals and Interferences

In re Application of: Thang C. Nguyen et al
Serial No.: 09/850,384
Filing Date: May 7, 2001
Group Art Unit: 2155
Examiner: Kevin T. Bates
Title: Shared Distributed Media Resources in a
Communication Network

Mail Stop: Appeal Brief - Patents

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Willie Jiles

Willie Jiles

Date: February 15, 2006

Appeal Brief

Appellants have appealed to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences from the decision of the Examiner finally rejecting Claims 1-45, as evidenced in the Final Office Action mailed August 23, 2005. Appellants filed a Notice of Appeal on December 19, 2005. Appellants respectfully submit this Appeal Brief with the statutory fee of \$500.00.

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Real Party In Interest

This application is currently owned by Cisco Technology, Inc., as indicated by an assignment recorded on May 7, 2001, in the Assignment Records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office at Reel 011781, Frames 0598-0602.

Related Appeals and Interferences

There are no known appeals or interferences which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision regarding this appeal.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-45 are pending in this application and all stand rejected under a final Office Action mailed August 23, 2005. Appellants present Claims 1-45 for appeal. Appendix A shows all pending claims.

Status of Amendments

No amendments have been submitted to the claims as originally filed.

Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

Certain embodiments of the present invention relate to a method for sharing distributed media resources includes determining at a first call manager that a telephony device controlled by the first call manager requires the use of a media resource device. The method further includes selecting an appropriate media resource device from a media resource group list associated with the telephony device. In addition, the method includes communicating an allocation request to a device process that is associated with the selected media resource device and that is executing at a second call manager controlling the selected media resource device. *Abstract.*

FIGURE 1 of the present application illustrates an exemplary communication network 10 according to one embodiment of the present invention. In the illustrated embodiment, communication network 10 includes a plurality of local area networks (LANs) 20 interconnected using a wide area network (WAN) 30. Each LAN 20 is a data communication network that is further operable to transmit audio and/or video telecommunications in packet form. In a particular embodiment, LANs 20 are Internet Protocol (IP) networks; however, LANs 20 may be any type of data communication network. *Page 6, lines 2-8.* LANs 20 may be coupled to other IP networks including, but not limited to, other LANs 20 and/or one or more wide area networks (WANs) 30, such as the Internet. In addition to being coupled to other IP networks, LANs 20 may also be coupled to non-IP telecommunication networks through the use of gateway devices 24. For example, LANs 20 may be coupled to the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) 40. *Page 6, lines 13-22.*

Communication network 10 also includes a plurality of call managers 26 that control one or more IP telephony devices 22 and/or gateway devices 24. A call manager 26 is a component that controls call processing, routing, telephone features and options (such as call hold, call transfer and caller ID), device configuration, and other telephony functions and parameters within communication network 10. A call manager 26 can control IP telephony devices 22 and gateway devices 24 coupled to the same LAN 20 to which the call manager 26 is coupled and a call manager 26 may also control IP telephony devices 22 and gateways 24 located elsewhere in communications network 10. For example, a call manager 26 coupled to LAN 20a is capable of controlling telephony devices 22 coupled to LAN 20b. *Page 7, lines 12-21.*

In addition to IP telephony devices 22 and gateway devices 24, call managers 26 may

also control one or more media resource devices (MRDs) 28 coupled to communication network 10. MRDs 28 are used to provide various services to telephony devices 22 and gateway devices 24. MRDs 28 may include any device that may be inserted into a media stream between telephony devices 22 and/or gateway devices 24 (or any other appropriate IP endpoints) to provide a media-related service or any device to which a telephony device 22 or gateway device 24 (or any other appropriate IP endpoint) may be connected using a media stream to provide a media-related service to the telephony device 22 or gateway device 24. Examples of MRDs 28 may include, but are not limited to: a media termination point (MTP) that maintains a communication session with a telephony device 22 to provide supplementary services to the telephony device such as call hold, call transfer, or any other services where telephony device 22 is disconnected from an existing communication session with another device 22, 24; a conference bridge that mixes a number of incoming media streams from participants in a conference call and delivers an appropriate mixed stream to each participant; a transcoder that translates from one encoding format to another encoding format; and a music-on-hold (MOH) server that provides music or other media to a telephony device 22 when the telephony device 22 is placed on hold. As with telephony devices 22 and gateway devices 24, each call manager 26 may control the operation of any MRD 28 located in communication network and each MRD 28 may be shared by a number of call managers 26 in communication network 10. Therefore, an MRD 28 of each type does not need to be provided for each call manager 26 (thus greatly reducing the cost of implementing MRDs 28). MRDs 28 may be implemented using any appropriate combination of hardware and/or software at one or more locations. *Page 7, line 27 – Page 8, line 19.*

FIGURE 2 of the present application illustrates exemplary functional components of a call manager 26. Call manager 26 includes a number of internal processes that are used to manage and control communication to and from devices 22, 24, 28. These processes include, but are not limited to, a call control module 102, a media control module 104, a device manager 106, an MRM 108, one or more device control processes 110, and a digit analysis module 116. *Page 9, lines 18-23.* In particular embodiments, each device 22, 24, 28 controlled by a particular call manager 26 has an associated device process 110 at the particular call manager 26. Each device process 110 acts as a signaling contact point to the associated device 22, 24, 28. For example, signaling sent from a component of call manager 26 or signaling sent from another call manager 26 is directed to the appropriate device

process 110, which then communicates the signaling to the associated device. Likewise, signaling sent from a device is first sent to the associated device process 110, and is then communicated to the appropriate destination. *Page 10, lines 11-16.*

When a MRD 28 coupled to a LAN 20 or any other appropriate location in communication network 10 comes on-line, the MRD 28 registers with a call manager 26. An appropriate component of call manager 26 receives the registration request, generates a device process 110 for the registering MRD 28, and assigns the device process 110 a process identification number or string (PID). A PID provides a location or address at which a process 110 may be signaled, even if that process 110 is at a different call manager 26 than the component that is sending the signal. Thus, the PID enables call control module 102 or another appropriate process in one call manager 26 to directly communicate with a device process 110 in the same call manager 26 or another call manager 26. *Page 10, lines 21-32.*

The device process 110 (or any other appropriate component) may communicate the registering MRD's device process PID and appropriate device identification information (such as the device name) to device manager 106. Device manager 106 associates the PID and the identification information in a device name mapping table 114 that may be stored in data storage 112 or in any other appropriate data storage location. Device manager 106 (or other appropriate component) also notifies MRM 108 that the particular MRD 28 has registered and is active. MRM 108 is responsible for managing MRDs 28. Each telephony device 22 and gateway device 24 in communication network 10 may have an associated media resource group list (MRGL) that prioritizes MRDs 28 for use by that device 22, 24. Each MRGL includes an ordered list of one or more media resource groups, and each media resource group includes an ordered list of device names (and an associated device type) of one or more MRDs 28. It should be noted that a particular MRD 28 may be assigned to more than one media resource group and a particular media resource group may be assigned to more than one MRGL. As is described in further detail below, when a particular device 22, 24 requires or desires the use of an MRD 28, the MRGL for that device 22, 24 may be communicated to MRM 108 and MRM 108 may assign an appropriate MRD 28 based on the MRGL. *Page 11, lines 11-28.*

FIGURE 4 of the present application illustrates an exemplary method for using an MRD 28 in conjunction with a telecommunication. In the exemplary method, a transcoder 28 is used in conjunction with the telephone call between two telephony devices 22a and 22b.

However, the exemplary method applies, at least in part, to the use of any other appropriate MRDs 28. Before the start of the exemplary method, a call has been requested by telephony device 22a, call control 102a has received a call proceed signal from telephony device 22b, and call control 102a has informed media control module 104a of the call proceed signal.

Page 16, line 28 – Page 17, line 6.

The exemplary method begins at step 300 when media control module 104a determines that a transcoder 28 is needed for the telecommunication between telephony devices 22a and 22b. For example, media control module 104a may determine that telephony device 22a is using a codec that is not compatible with the codec used by telephony device 22b. Therefore, media control module 104a determines that a transcoder 28 needs to be inserted into the media stream between telephony devices 22a and 22b. At step 302, media control module 104a communicates an MRD request and a MRGL to MRM 108a. The MRD request includes the requested type of MRD 28 (which in this example is a transcoder). *Page 17, lines 7-15.*

MRM 108a receives the MRD request and MRGL and determines the first MRD 28 in the MRGL of the requested device type at step 304. As described above, each media resource group in the MRGL includes a list of device names of MRDs 28 and an associated device type. These media resource groups may be communicated as part of the MRGL or may be stored so that they are accessible by MRM 108a. In the example method, MRM 108a starts at the top of the first media resource group and begins to search for the requested device type. If MRM 108a does not find an MRD 28 of the requested type in the first media resource group in the MRGL, MRM 108a continues searching in the next media resource group in the MRGL (assuming there is one). When MRM 108a finds the requested device type, MRM 108a communicates the device name of the MRD 28 (in this example, a transcoder) at step 306 to device manager 106a to obtain a PID of the device process 110 associated with the device name. At step 308, device manager 106a receives the device name, translates the device name into a PID using mapping table 114, and communicates the PID to MRM 108a. For this example, it is assumed that the PID identifies a device process 110c executing at call manager 26b and associated with transcoder 28. *Page 18, lines 13-29.*

MRM 108a receives the PID and communicates an allocation request to device process 110c at step 310. Device process 110c may communicate with transcoder 28 to determine its availability or device process 110c may know the availability of transcoder 28.

In either case, device process 110c (or transcoder 28) communicates an allocation response to MRM 108a at step 312 indicating whether transcoder 28 is available for use. At step 314, MRM 108a receives the allocation response and determines whether transcoder 28 is available. If transcoder 28 is unavailable, the method returns to step 304 and MRM 108a continues searching for the next MRD 28 of the requested type in the appropriate MRGL. In the event that none of the MRDs 28 in the MRGL are available, MRM 108a may communicate an MRD response to media control module 104a indicating that no MRDs 28 are available. Similarly, if there are no MRDs 28 of the requested type in the MRGL or if there is an error in determining an MRD, MRM 108a may return a failure indication to media control module 104a. If transcoder 28 is available, MRM 108a communicates an MRD response to media control module 104a at step 316 indicating that transcoder 28 is available. This MRD response includes the PID of device process 110c. At step 318, media control layer 104a communicates with device processes 110a, 110b, and/or 110c to establish a media streaming connection between telephony devices 22a and 22b via transcoder 28, and the method ends. *Page 18, line 30 – Page 19, line 16.*

Ground of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

Appellants request that the Board review the following rejections:

- The Examiner's rejection of Claims 1, 6, 8-9, 11-12, 14-17, 22, 24-25, 27-28, 30-31, 36, 38-39, 41-42 and 44-45 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,381,321 issued to Brown et al. ("Brown").
- The Examiner's rejection of Claims 2, 18 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Brown* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,512,918 issued to Malomsoky.
- The Examiner's rejection of Claims 3-5, 19-21 and 33-35 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Brown* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,757,781 issued to Gilman et al.
- The Examiner's rejection of Claims 10, 26, and 40 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Brown* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,687,234 issued to Shaffer.
- The Examiner's rejection of Claims 7, 23, and 37 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Brown* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,978,465 issued to Corduroy ("Corduroy").
- The Examiner's rejection of Claims 13, 29, and 43 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Brown* in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,959,854 issued to Cave ("Cave").

Argument

The Examiner's rejections of Claims 1-45 are improper, and the Board should withdraw these rejections for the reasons given below.

I. The Examiner's Rejection of Claims 1, 6, 8-9, 11-12, 14-17, 22, 24-25, 27-28, 30-31, 36, 38-39, 41-42, and 44-45 is Improper

Claims 1, 6, 8-9, 11-12, 14-17, 22, 24-25, 27-28, 30-31, 36, 38-39, 41-42, and 44-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,381,321 issued to Brown et al. ("Brown").¹ Appellants respectfully submit that *Brown* does not disclose each and every limitation of these claims for the following reasons.

A. Independent Claims 1, 15, 31, and 45 are Allowable over Brown

Claim 1 of the present Application recites the following:

A method for sharing distributed media resources, comprising:
determining at a first call manager that a telephony device controlled by the first call manager requires the use of a media resource device;
selecting an appropriate media resource device from a media resource group list associated with the telephony device; and
communicating an allocation request to a device process associated with the selected media resource device, the device process executing at a second call manager controlling the selected media resource device.

Independent Claims 15, 31, and 45 recite similar, although not identical, limitations.

Brown does not anticipate Claim 1 (or Claims 15, 31 and 45) at least because it does not disclose "communicating an allocation request to a device process associated with the selected media resource device, the device process executing at a second call manager controlling the selected media resource device." In the main text of the rejection in the Final Office Action, the Examiner asserts that this limitation is disclosed at Column 9, lines 24-28 of *Brown*. This passage discloses that a connection management module of the telecommunication service system of *Brown* determines the most efficient path for

¹ The summary of this rejection on page 2 of the Final Office Action still indicates that Claims 2, 7, 13, 18, 23, 29, 32, 37 and 43 are also rejected as being anticipated by *Brown*; however, Appellants assume this summary to be in error since these claims are now rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

connection between a telephone and the PSTN. This is not a disclosure of any device processes. It is also not a disclosure of a second call manager controlling a selected media resource device. Even if it is assumed for the sake of argument that the telecommunication service system (110) of *Brown* is a first call manager, there is certainly no disclosure of a second call manager controlling a selected media resource device, as recited in the claims of the present application. Furthermore, since there is no disclosure of a second call manager controlling a selected media resource device, there is also no disclosure of an allocation message communicated to a second call manager, and certainly no disclosure of communicating such a message to a device process executing at a second call manager.

Furthermore, in the “Response to Arguments” section of the Final Office Action (and in the Advisory Action), the Examiner asserts that *Brown* discloses multiple call managers as recited in Claim 1 because *Brown* discloses multiple management modules that interact with each other. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that the system manager module of the telecommunication service system is the recited first call manager and that the resource management module of the telecommunication service system is the recited second call manager. As is disclosed in *Brown*, all of the modules in the memory (210) of the telecommunication service system take part in the allocation of a telecommunication resource. To claim that one module is a manager of a device requesting a resource and another module is a manager of the requested resource is a strained and incorrect interpretation of reference, not to mention the claim term “call manager.”

There is no disclosure that the system manager module controls any telephony device that requests the use of a resource. The Examiner argues that the system manager module receives a request from a subscriber to set up a new call. In fact, there is no such disclosure. *Brown* makes it clear that the “request” is received by the telecommunication resource itself, and that the resource then communicates the request to the system manager module. (See Column 9, lines 7-15; Column 17, lines 18-23). As is made clear from Figure 2a of *Brown*, the telecommunication service system and its modules manage the telecommunication resources (220), not the telephony device (325) requesting the resources. There is no disclosure of a call manager that controls the requesting telephony device and that sends an allocation request to *another* call manager that controls the resource. Furthermore, the

Examiner's interpretation would require that the resource management module somehow control the resource apart from system manager module, which is clearly not the case.

Moreover, the Examiner has proposed no teachings of *Brown* that disclose communicating an allocation request to a *device process* of a second call manager. Even assuming for the sake of argument that the *that* resource management module is a second call manager, there is no disclosure of a device process associated with the selected media resource device to which the allocation request is communicated.

For at least these reasons, Appellants submit that *Brown* does not anticipate Claim 1. Furthermore, Claims 15, 31, and 45 include similar limitations and thus are also allowable for similar reasons. Therefore, Appellants respectfully request allowance of Claims 1, 15, 31, and 45.

Furthermore, dependent Claims 2-14, 16-30, and 32-44 depend from, and incorporate all of the limitations of independent Claims 1, 15, or 31, which are allowable for the reasons discussed above. Therefore, dependent Claims 2-14, 16-30, and 32-44 are allowable at least because they depend from an allowable independent claim. In addition to their dependence on an allowable independent claim, at least dependent Claims 14, 30, and 44 (as an example only, and not by way of limitation) are also allowable because they each contain additional limitations not disclosed in *Brown*, as described below.

B. Dependent Claims 14, 30 and 44 are Also Allowable over Brown

In addition to their dependence on one of the allowable independent claims discussed above, Claims 14, 30, and 44 are also allowable because *Brown* does not disclose receiving a media resource group list associated with a telephony device *from the telephony device*. The passage cited by the Examiner discloses restricting access to particular applications to all of subsets of telephone sets. There is simply no disclosure of anything even related to the limitations of these claims. Furthermore, the Examiner does not address these argument in the Response to Arguments section of the Final Office Action or in the Advisory Action. For at least these additional reasons, Appellants respectfully request allowance of Claims 14, 30, and 44.

II. The Examiner's Rejection of Claims 2-5, 10, 18-21, 26, 32-35 and 40 is Improper

Claims 2, 18, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Brown* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,512,918 issued to Malomsoky. In addition, Claims 3-5, 19-21, and 33-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Brown* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,757,781 issued to Gilman et al. Furthermore, Claims 10, 26, and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Brown* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,687,234 issued to Shaffer. As noted in Section I above, each of these claims depends from one of the allowable independent Claims 1, 15, or 31, discussed above. At least because these claims dependent from an allowable independent claim, Appellants respectfully request allowance of these claims.

III. The Examiner's Rejection of Claims 7, 23, and 37 is Improper

The Final Office Action also rejects Claims 7, 23, and 37 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Brown* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,978,465 issued to Corduroy (“*Corduroy*”). Claims 7, 23, and 37 are allowable because, in addition to their dependence on one of the allowable independent claims discussed above, neither *Brown* nor *Corduroy* disclose accessing a mapping table to determine a process identification (PID) associated with a selected device name, the PID identifying a device process associated with the media resource device identified by the device name, or communicating the allocation request to the device process using the PID. The Examiner asserts that these limitations are disclosed at Column 7, lines 18-42 and Figure 5 of *Corduroy*. However, the table of Figure 5 and the associated description does not disclose any PIDs of device processes, much less PIDs of device processes that are associated with an identified resource device, as required by these claims. Furthermore, there is no disclosure of communicating any type of messages using a PID.

In the Response to Arguments section of the Final Office Action (and in the Advisory Action), the Examiner argues that Column 7, lines 43-51 discloses a table having “group process identification associated with resources” and goes on to assert that the “group process identifier discloses what group/process the resource is associated with any much more information.” Nothing in this passage (or elsewhere in *Corduroy*) discloses a PID identifying

a device process associated with the media resource device. The Examiner seems to be arguing that the group to which a call center agent is assigned is somehow a device process associated with an identified resource device (with the group identifier being a PID). Appellants fail to see how an agent group has any relation to the claimed device process. For at least these reasons, Appellants respectfully request allowance of Claims 7, 23, and 37.

IV. The Examiner's Rejection of Claims 13, 29, and 43 is Improper

Furthermore, Claims 13, 29, and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Brown* in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,959,854 issued to *Cave* ("Cave"). Claims 13, 29, and 43 are allowable because, in addition to their dependence on one of the allowable independent claims discussed above, neither *Brown* nor *Cave* disclose receiving an allocation response from a device process indicating that a selected media resource device is unavailable, selecting a second appropriate media resource device from a media resource group list, or communicating an allocation request to a second device process associated with the second media resource device. The Examiner asserts that these limitations are disclosed at Column 4, lines 30-52 of *Caves*. However, like *Brown*, *Caves* discloses a *single* resource manager that controls a number of resources (*see Col. 3, lines 54-68*). Therefore, there is no disclosure in *Caves* of any response from a device process associated with a *second* resource manager. Also, there is no disclosure of an allocation request to a second device process for similar reasons.

In the Response to Arguments section of the Final Office Action (and in the Advisory Action), the Examiner argues that *Caves* discloses at Column 4, lines 43-45 the rechecking of a list to determine if another resource is available. However, like in *Brown*, there is no disclosure of any device processes or the communication of allocation requests to and the receipt of allocation responses from such device processes. For at least these reasons, Appellants respectfully request allowance of Claims 13, 29, and 43.

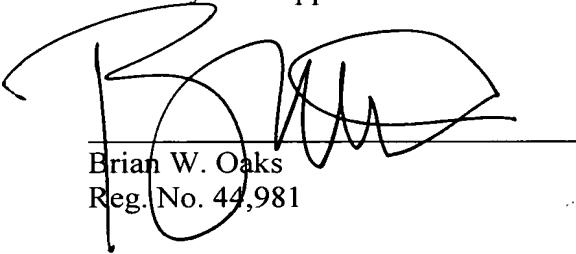
Conclusion

Appellants have demonstrated that the present invention, as claimed, is clearly distinguishable over the prior art cited by the Examiner. Therefore, Appellants respectfully request the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences to reverse the final rejection of the Examiner and instruct the Examiner to issue a notice of allowance of all claims.

Appellants have enclosed a check in the amount of \$500.00 for this Appeal Brief. Appellants believe no additional fees are due. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee and credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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Appendix A: Claims on Appeal

1. (Original) A method for sharing distributed media resources, comprising:
determining at a first call manager that a telephony device controlled by the first call manager requires the use of a media resource device;
selecting an appropriate media resource device from a media resource group list associated with the telephony device; and
communicating an allocation request to a device process associated with the selected media resource device, the device process executing at a second call manager controlling the selected media resource device.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein determining that the telephony device requires the use of a media resource device comprises determining that the telephony device desires to establish a telecommunication with a second telephony device and determining that a transcoder is required to establish the telecommunication.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein determining that the telephony device requires the use of a media resource device comprises determining that the telephony device desires to initiate a conference call.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein determining that the telephony device requires the use of a media resource device comprises determining that a media termination point is required to maintain a communication session with the telephony device.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein determining that the telephony device requires the use of a media resource device comprises determining that the telephony device has been placed on hold and may be connected to a music-on-hold server.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein:
the media resource group list includes a plurality of device names each identifying a media resource device; and
selecting an appropriate media resource device comprises selecting a device name from the media resource group list.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 6, further comprising:
accessing a mapping table to determine a process identification (PID) associated with the selected device name, the PID identifying a device process associated with the media resource device identified by the device name; and
communicating the allocation request to the device process using the PID.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein:
the media resource group list comprises one or more media resource groups, each media resource group including a list of device names of one or more media resource devices and a device type associated with each device name; and
selecting an appropriate media resource device from the media resource group list comprises selecting a device name associated with a device type that is required by the telephony device.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 8, wherein:
the media resource groups are ordered in the media resource group list;
the device names are ordered in each media resource group; and
selecting an appropriate media resource device comprises searching through the media resource groups and the device names in each media resource group in order until a device name associated with the required device type is found.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 8, wherein one or more of the media resource groups include only media resource devices located in the same geographic area.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 8, wherein one or more of the media resource groups include only media resource devices for use by a particular class of user.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
receiving an allocation response from the device process indicating that the selected media resource device is available; and
establishing a media streaming connection between the telephony device and the media resource device.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
receiving an allocation response from the device process indicating that the selected media resource device is unavailable;
selecting a second appropriate media resource device from the media resource group list; and
communicating an allocation request to a second device process associated with the second media resource device.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising receiving the media resource group list associated with the telephony device from the telephony device.

15. (Original) A call manager coupled to a packet-based network and operable to control a plurality of devices, comprising:

a control module operable to determine that a telephony device controlled by the call manager requires the use of a media resource device; and

a media resource manager operable to:

select an appropriate media resource device from a media resource group list associated with the telephony device; and

communicate an allocation request to a device process associated with the selected media resource device, the device process executing at a second call manager controlling the selected media resource device.

16. (Original) The call manager of Claim 15, wherein the control module comprises a call control module.

17. (Original) The call manager of Claim 15, wherein the control module comprises a media control module.

18. (Original) The call manager of Claim 15, wherein determining that the telephony device requires the use of a media resource device comprises determining that the telephony device desires to establish a telecommunication with a second telephony device and determining that a transcoder is required to establish the telecommunication.

19. (Original) The call manager of Claim 15, wherein determining that the telephony device requires the use of a media resource device comprises determining that the telephony device desires to initiate a conference call.

20. (Original) The call manager of Claim 15, wherein determining that the telephony device requires the use of a media resource device comprises determining that a media termination point is required to maintain a communication session with the telephony device.

21. (Original) The call manager of Claim 15, wherein determining that the telephony device requires the use of a media resource device comprises determining that the telephony device has been placed on hold and may be connected to a music-on-hold server.

22. (Original) The call manager of Claim 15, wherein:
the media resource group list includes a plurality of device names each identifying a media resource device; and
the media resource manager is operable to select a device name from the media resource group list.

23. (Original) The call manager of Claim 22, further comprising a device manager operable to:

receive the device name from the media resource manager;
access a mapping table to determine a process identification (PID) associated with the device name, the PID identifying a device process associated with the media resource device identified by the device name; and
communicating the PID to the media resource manager for use in communicating the allocation request to the media resource device.

24. (Original) The call manager of Claim 15, wherein:
the media resource group list comprises one or more media resource groups, each media resource group including a list of device names of one or more media resource devices and a device type associated with each device name; and
the media resource manager is operable to select a device name associated with a device type that is required by the telephony device.

25. (Original) The call manager of Claim 24, wherein:
the media resource groups are ordered in the media resource group list;
the device names are ordered in each media resource group; and
the media resource manager is operable to search through the media resource groups
and the device names in each media resource group in order until a device name associated
with the required device type is found.

26. (Original) The call manager of Claim 24, wherein one or more of the
media resource groups include only media resource devices located in the same geographic
area.

27. (Original) The call manager of Claim 24, wherein one or more of the
media resource groups include only media resource devices for use by a particular class of
user.

28. (Original) The call manager of Claim 15, wherein:
the media resource manager is further operable to receive an allocation response from
the device process indicating that the selected media resource device is available; and
the control module is further operable to establish a media streaming connection
between the telephony device and the media resource device in response to the allocation
response.

29. (Original) The call manager of Claim 15, wherein the media resource
manager is further operable to:

receive an allocation response from the device process indicating that the selected
media resource device is unavailable;

select a second appropriate media resource device from the media resource group list;
and

communicate an allocation request to a second device process associated with the
second media resource device.

30. (Original) The call manager of Claim 15, wherein the control module is further operable to:

receive the media resource group list associated with the telephony device from the telephony device; and

communicate the media resource group list to the media resource manager.

31. (Original) Call manager software embodied in a computer-readable medium and operable to:

determine that a telephony device controlled by the call manager software requires the use of a media resource device;

select an appropriate media resource device from a media resource group list associated with the telephony device; and

communicate an allocation request to a device process associated with the selected media resource device, the device process associated with other call manager software controlling the selected media resource device.

32. (Original) The software of Claim 31, wherein determining that the telephony device requires the use of a media resource device comprises determining that the telephony device desires to establish a telecommunication with a second telephony device and determining that a transcoder is required to establish the telecommunication.

33. (Original) The software of Claim 31, wherein determining that the telephony device requires the use of a media resource device comprises determining that the telephony device desires to initiate a conference call.

34. (Original) The software of Claim 31, wherein determining that the telephony device requires the use of a media resource device comprises determining that a media termination point is required to maintain a communication session with the telephony device.

35. (Original) The software of Claim 31, wherein determining that the telephony device requires the use of a media resource device comprises determining that the telephony device has been placed on hold and may be connected to a music-on-hold server.

36. (Original) The software of Claim 31, wherein:
the media resource group list includes a plurality of device names each identifying a media resource device; and
selecting an appropriate media resource device comprises selecting a device name from the media resource group list.

37. (Original) The software of Claim 36, further operable to:
access a mapping table to determine a process identification (PID) associated with the selected device name, the PID identifying a device process associated with the media resource device identified by the device name; and
communicate the allocation request to the device process using the PID.

38. (Original) The software of Claim 31, wherein:
the media resource group list comprises one or more media resource groups, each media resource group including a list of device names of one or more media resource devices and a device type associated with each device name; and
selecting an appropriate media resource device from the media resource group list comprises selecting a device name associated with a device type that is required by the telephony device.

39. (Original) The software of Claim 38, wherein:
the media resource groups are ordered in the media resource group list;
the device names are ordered in each media resource group; and
selecting an appropriate media resource device comprises searching through the media resource groups and the device names in each media resource group in order until a device name associated with the required device type is found.

40. (Original) The software of Claim 38, wherein one or more of the media resource groups include only media resource devices located in the same geographic area.

41. (Original) The software of Claim 38, wherein one or more of the media resource groups include only media resource devices for use by a particular class of user.

42. (Original) The software of Claim 31, further operable to:
receive an allocation response from the device process indicating that the selected media resource device is available; and
establish a media streaming connection between the telephony device and the media resource device.

43. (Original) The software of Claim 31, further operable to:
receive an allocation response from the device process indicating that the selected media resource device is unavailable;
select a second appropriate media resource device from the media resource group list;
and
communicate an allocation request to a second device process associated with the second media resource device.

44. (Original) The software of Claim 31, further operable to receive the media resource group list associated with the telephony device from the telephony device.

45. (Original) A call manager, comprising:

means for determining that a telephony device controlled by the call manager requires the use of a media resource device;

means for selecting an appropriate media resource device from a media resource group list associated with the telephony device; and

means for communicating an allocation request to a device process associated with the selected media resource device, the device process executing at a second call manager controlling the selected media resource device.

Appendix B: Evidence

NONE

Appendix C: Related Proceedings

NONE